

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-7 and are pending in the application. Claims 2, 3 and 8 have been cancelled. Claims 1 and 9 are in independent form.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §102

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,743,596 to Chabanne ("the '596 reference").

In response, Applicant has cancelled claim 8.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the '596 reference be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

The remaining claims 1, 4-7, and 9 have been allowed.

It is respectfully submitted that this patent application is in immediate condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment or the patent application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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